Young Teen & High School Sunday School Curriculum

Download the complete lesson at EncounterFace2Face.com
ENCOUNTER™ Sunday School Curriculum

Bible-based. Culturally relevant. Personally challenging.

How can teens meet with God face-to-face?

Teens need to experience God actively, firsthand—in a way that relates to their lifestyle and how they communicate. ENCOUNTER brings teens the message of the Bible and relates spiritual truths to the world around them.

Every week, ENCOUNTER challenges students with an engaging Bible study that helps them understand God, the Bible, doctrine, or a biblical worldview. Your students experience lessons in ways that fit their learning styles.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Teacher’s Convenience Kits
  This kit includes the teacher guide, one student book, posters, reproducible files, one set of magazines, and a CD-ROM with audio skits, digital posters, video clips, and more!

- Teacher Guides
  Includes Scripture commentary, activities, and resource suggestions.

- Student Books
  Have your students participate in Bible study with case studies, discussion questions, self-evaluations, and more activities.

- Take-Home Magazine
  Learn more on page 3.

- Free Online Resources
  Learn more on page 14.

Price $4.49–$29.99

Students can take home a magazine that connects with every week’s lesson.

The Magazine

ENCOUNTER—The Magazine challenges students to bring home what they have studied. This 8-page weekly magazine contains engaging articles, interviews, stories, daily lesson-related devotions, quizzes, and poetry.

Download a free sample at EncounterFace2Face.com/magazine

Do your teens have a message to share?

Encourage them to e-mail their poems, stories, or works of art with a Christian message to be considered for our Expressions feature. They may also submit testimonials for My Story (550 words or less).

Have them send their work to us at: encounter@standardpub.com and remind them to include their date of birth, home address, and e-mail address so we can contact them and pay them if we use their work!
young teen

ENCOUNTER™

Every week, ENCOUNTER challenges students with an age-appropriate, engaging Bible study that helps them understand God, the Bible, or a biblical worldview. Flexible lessons include application points relevant to the experiences of your middle school students and activity options designed to fit various learning styles—drama, visual arts, music, writing, and discussions.

HOW IT WORKS
Each week’s lesson follows 4 easy steps:
1. Setting the Stage—students define the week’s topic
2. Searching the Word—students get into the Bible
3. Making It Real—students learn how the topic applies to their world
4. Living It Out—students apply the week’s topic to their personal lives

WHAT YOU GET
Teacher’s Convenience Kit
Each quarterly lesson pack gives you 13 lessons and includes:
• Teacher Book—Relevant Bible commentary, clearly stated objectives, and a variety of learning options for each lesson
• Resources*—Tons of ready-to-use posters and reproducible handouts with a CD-ROM packed with audio skits, engaging video clips, and fun Bible memory puzzles
• Student Book—Meaningful case studies, ready-to-use discussion questions, enlightening self-evaluations, and more to help students apply what they are learning to their everyday lives
• ENCOUNTER—The Magazine—13 full-color, 8-page, weekly magazines filled with engaging articles and real-life stories, daily lesson-related devotions and even safe, parent-approved online activities. (Sets of 13 issues are sold in packs of 5—get one set for every student!)
  * Also sold separately

WHY YOU WILL LOVE IT!
ENCOUNTER is:
• Planned
  ENCOUNTER is built on a 3-year curriculum plan that was created after consulting with student ministry experts and teens.
• Packed
  ENCOUNTER gives you a virtual toolbox for preparing creative, content-rich studies.
• Personal
  ENCOUNTER allows you to customize each lesson for your teens.

Flexible resources built to fit any group!
Lesson length 45–90 minutes.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
• Young Teen Scope & Sequence

FALL
Focus on the Finish Line
• Seeing the Big Picture
• Knowing God’s Will
• Making Wise Choices
Challenges to a Biblical Faith
• Is There More We Should Know? (The Challenge of Monotony)
• Which Church Has the True Gospel? (The Challenge of Jehovah’s Witnesses)
• Should I Be Repeated? (The Challenge of Islam)
• Aren’t We All Part of God? (The Challenge of Wicca)
Famous Women of the Bible
• Ruth—A Woman of Loyalty
• Abigail—A Woman of Peace
• Hannah—A Woman of Gratitude
• Authority—Why Have It?
• Authority—Why Respect It?
• Authority—How Do I Use It?

OUTCOMES
• Jesus Encountered
  • A Solef Woman
  • Zacchaeus
  • Blind Bartimaeus
  • Ten Lepers
• Sharing the Good News
  • Responding to the Call
  • Overcoming Obstacles
  • Clarifying the Truth
  • Using Every Opportunity

TAKING CHARGE
• Take Charge of Your Health
• Take Charge of Your Habits
• Take Charge of Your Emotions
• Take Charge of Your Attitude
• Take Charge of Your Example

WEEKLY TOPICS
• What’s the Point?
• What Am I Seeking?
• What Can I Bring?
• Be His
• Stretch Seconds
• Unlock Success
• Take Time

THE WORK OF CHRIST
• Building His Kingdom
• Trusting in Jesus
• No One Knows Jesus Like Jesus
• Are You Committed?
• Become a Servant

YOUR PRIORITIES
• bike
• Stretch Seconds
• Unlock Success
• Take Time

YOUR POSSESSIONS
• I Want More!
• It’s All Yours, Lord!
• Use It; Don’t Abuse It.
• What More Could We Want?

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS
• Don’t Be a Bully
• Don’t Be a Bystander
• Do Not Covet
• Do Not Lie
• Do Not Steal
• No Death?
• No Idols?
• No Other Gods?

MIRRORS IN MATTHEW
• The Media
• The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
• The Great Banquet
• The Sower, the Seed, and the Soil
• The Promise and the Tea Collector

DOING A DIFFERENCE
• Making a Difference in the World
• Making a Difference in Your School
• Making a Difference in Your Community
• Making a Difference in Your World

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YEAR 2

OUTCOMES
• Jesus Encountered
  • A Solef Woman
  • Zacchaeus
  • Blind Bartimaeus
  • Ten Lepers
• Sharing the Good News
  • Responding to the Call
  • Overcoming Obstacles
  • Clarifying the Truth
  • Using Every Opportunity

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  • A Solef Woman
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  • Blind Bartimaeus
  • Ten Lepers
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  • Responding to the Call
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  • Using Every Opportunity

TAKING CHARGE
• Take Charge of Your Health
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• Making a Difference in Your World

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**SUMMER**

designed to fit various learning styles—drama, visual arts, music, writing, and discussions. That helps them understand God, the Bible, or a biblical worldview. Flexible lessons include challenges students with an age-appropriate, engaging Bible study after consulting with student ministry experts and teens. ENCOUNTER is built on a 3-year curriculum plan that was created and a variety of learning options for each lesson.

**WHAT YOU GET**

Teacher's Convenience Kit

Each quarterly lesson pack gives you 13 lessons and includes:

- Teacher Book—Relevant Bible commentary, clearly stated objectives, and a variety of learning options for each lesson
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Flexible resources built to fit any group!

**WHY YOU WILL LOVE IT!**

ENCOUNTER is:

- Planned
- Packed
- Personal

**WHAT IT WORKS**

Each week’s lesson follows 4 easy steps:

1. Setting the Stage—students define the week’s topic
2. Searching the Word—students get into the Bible
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4. Living It Out—students apply the week’s topic to their personal lives

EncounterFace2Face.com

Download complete young teen and high school lessons at EncounterFace2Face.com

**Year 1**

- **Preaching the Word**
  - Nature vs. Supernatural
  - God’s Plan for the Church
  - The Sin of Adam and Eve
  - God’s Plan for Man

- **Learning to Rest**
  - The Death of Lazarus
  - The Baptist’s Baptism
  - The Disciples’ Discouragement
  - The Disciples’ Joy

**Year 2**

- **Learning to Serve**
  - Lessons in Leadership (Deborah)
  - The Woman at the Well
  - Matthew, the Tax Collector
  - Take Charge of Your Example

- **Learning to Lead**
  - Man’s Trash, God’s Treasure (Rahab)
  - Lessons in Leadership (Esther)
  - The Price of Power (Esther)
  - The God of All Nations

**Year 3**

- **Learning to Love**
  - The God of Courageous Witnesses
  - The God of Powerful Beginnings
  - The God of Second Chances

- **Learning to Live**
  - The Final Word on Authority
  - Lessons in Leadership (Daniel)
  - The Price of Power (Job)
  - The God of All Nations

**Lesson length 45–90 minutes.**
Each lesson’s main theme is easy to find.

Simple, four-step plan for each lesson.

Lesson Scripture provided for teachers here.

He Shared Human Hardship

Lesson 11

Unit Three: Jesus Christ: His Ministry
Scripture: John 13:26-36; Hebrews 2:10; 8:14-16
Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments.

**Having a Bad Day?**

You know you are having a bad day when a local news team arrives at your school to interview talented29 students right after lunch. “You know you are having a bad day when you are following a car coated with freshly baked cream cheese and your mom starts shouting and remains stuck. You know you are having a bad day when you realize that while you thought you put your head down, it was actually under the covers.”

We all have bad days. We all wonder, ‘Why me?’ We sometimes question whether anyone really understands what we are going through. The Bible teaches that there are times when Jesus understands, he has walked where we walk. His suffering brings about compassion, comfort, and confidence.

**Hide It in Your Heart**

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

Matthew 14:13

For a persuasion or take-home activity, lead kids in memorizing this key passage, using the puzzle found on the High School Resources CD.

John 13:26-32

“When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, ‘Lord, if you have been here, my brother would not have died.’

Jesus knew she was weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and in tears.”

Matthew 28:10

“For he has suffered for sins, he has suffered and is at the right hand of God exalted, having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, who has been promised.

Jesus wept.

**Be the pioneer of [our salvation]**

The word for pioneer may also be translated: ‘leader, captain, guide, or troubadour.’

This term shows that the reference to Jesus′ suffering is not limited to general pain but extends beyond that to the suffering of death. Jesus not only experienced general hurts before we did. He also felt the charge into the jaws of death so that we may safely pass through them as well.

**Comprehend the scheme**

In God’s Messiah would not be a judge on a pedagogical breakdown on human suffering. He would be a “suffering,” we who would experience the full extent of our Lord’s sorrow.

John 19:23, 24

Jesus′ suffering is not limited to general pain but extends beyond that to the suffering of death. Jesus not only experienced general hurts before we did. He also felt the charge into the jaws of death so that we may safely pass through them as well.

**Confidence**

It is human nature to look at suffering people with disdain, reasoning that they got what they deserved, if we have not experienced a certain trial, we may be tempted to feel superiority and treat the sufferer with contempt. In fact, the common teaching of the Word in Jesus’ days was that even those who were with a disability deserve it (either because of a sin committed in the womb or a sin committed by their own parents). John 9:3, 4.

We can be brutal to those whose trials we do not understand.

But the sufferings of Jesus keep this from happening. He sympathizes with our weaknesses since He endured the same trials and temptations that we face (Hebrews 4:13, 15). The result is that we can be confident when facing judgment, expecting mercy and grace rather than superiority and condemnation (v. 16).

**Perfect love (“complete” or “brilliant,” as discussed above) is shown by the sacrifice of Christ (1 John 4:16). This kind of love can be relied on, doing away with fear of judgment (v. 18-20).**

The suffering of Jesus teaches us that He understands our pain and will grant mercy to those who belong to Him. Even on the worst days of our lives, we have reason for hope. Our suffering Savior was shown to be qualified by suffering. He can comfort us because He too has suffered. And firstly, we can know He will be merciful because He has endured the trials and temptations of this world.

Jesus’ love for Lazarus (v. 36). Even the Jewish rulers recognized Jesus’ deep love for others.

Some have speculated that Jesus’ tears were not for the death of His friend, once He knew that He would raise that friend back to life, but we who are convinced that we will see a departed loved one soon will not corrode at the sound of praying. There is no reason not to believe that Jesus did not experience that same sorrow in fact, by experiencing that same sorrow, He was able to comfort Lazarus’s sisters more fully.

This model of sharing sorrow in order to comfort continues in the body of Christ, His church. Pastors need to help the church at Corinth that God comforted us during times of pain or loss so we can be equipped to be a credible and effective comforter to someone facing the same trials (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). He argued that “our comfort abounds through Christ,” giving us authentic consolation (v. 4).

Scripture commentary pulls out main points to emphasize.
### Step 1: Setting the Stage

**Quick Step: Quick Draw**

As students arrive, have them turn to page 41 in the student book. They need to assume the role of a character from the story, by adding other characters, thoughts, or speech balloons, props, and backgrounds as they see fit. They are to illustrate what they were thinking on the worst day of their lives.

When all students have arrived and have had an opportunity to complete the drawing, ask volunteers to share their work.

Lead a discussion with these questions:

- List some details you observed in the drawings of other students and discuss what might they be thinking on the worst day of their lives.
- How would you have felt then when you were in the shoes of someone who had gone through similar trials?
- What might you have asked your friend at that time?

Lead into the little story by saying, “We all have bad days. We all wonder, Why me?” Sometimes we ask ourselves whether anyone really understands what we are going through. The Bible teaches that there is someone who understands. Jesus has walked where we walk. Let’s see what the Bible says about His trials and troubles.

**The Scene**

For an opening activity based on a current news headline, download The Scene online. Go to [https://www.encounterface2face.com/](https://www.encounterface2face.com/) and find a free article with discussion questions to begin this week’s lesson.

**Supplemental online material**—free for every lesson!

### Step 2: Searching the Word

**Quick Step: Realize the Outline**

Divide the class into groups of three to five students each. Write the following Scripture assignments:

- **Comprehension:** Jesus’ trials are written in the Bible (Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:44).
- **Comprehension:** Jesus experiences suffering because He experienced similar trials (John 11:52-56; 2 Corinthians 1:5-7).
- **Comprehension:** We know that one reason Jesus suffered because He experienced similar trials is that He too experienced temptation (Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 4:18).
- **Comprehension:** Each group should create a sympathy card based on one or more of the above assignments. Sample verse: “Through the fire He came from heaven on high. He knows how it feels to have a friend die.”

Have students work independently or in pairs to create the sympathy card. (Optional: sample sympathy card)

### Materials and the approximate time needed for each activity are always shown in the margins.
Each lesson utilizes helpful resources such as magazine articles, video clips, and audio skits—all available when you purchase a kit!

Send your students home with ENCOUNTER—The Magazine to keep them focused all week!
Teach students how to respond to everyday life by using the timeless truths of Scripture. Download The Scene each week and begin your lesson with a topic your teens will love to weigh in on!

Don’t forget to check out The Scene—relevant current events with discussion questions to engage your students in each lesson! Find it at EncounterFace2Face.com

THE SCENE – A WEEKLY CURRENT EVENTS CONNECTION

Begin your lesson by discussing a topic related to this week’s headlines!

SMALL GROUP SOLUTIONS

The True to Life series delivers an arsenal of studies that ring true to students and open them to exploring Bible truths in more detail.

• Real life—each study begins with a real story about a sports, entertainment, world news, or other event and continues with probing discussion and a closing challenge
• High interest—covering relevant topics from the New Testament, the Old Testament, and Bible Truths that are hot topics today
• 40 lessons—listed in the index by lesson topic, Scripture, or story to easily fit with anything else you’ve prepared
• Low prep—everything you need to teach and lead discussion is on a single perforated sheet

40 Instant Studies:

Old Testament
Price: $9.99

New Testament
Price: $9.99

Bible Truths
Price: $9.99

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